

Message Text

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SUBJ: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE KAI-YU HSU EXPULSION

SUMMARY. KAI-YU HSU, WHO WAS RECENTLY EJECTED FROM THE PRC, HAS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF HIS EXPERIENCE. THIS ADDED INFORMATION MAKES IT CONSIDERABLY CLEARER THAT HIS EXPULSION WAS RELATED TO HIS HAVING AUTHORED A HIGHLY LAUDATORY BIOGRAPHY OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND TO THE CURRENT INTERNAL PRC POLITICAL CLIMATE. END SUMMARY.

DURING AUGUST 17-18 CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFFS, CHINESE-AMERICAN PROFESSOR KAI-YU HSU, WHO WAS RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM PRC, SUPPLEMENTED HIS EARLIER ACCOUNT (REFTELS) WITH FOLLOWING:

1. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION WHETHER HSU'S INTERVIEWS WITH PRC
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WRITERS MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSE FOR HIS EXPULSION, HSU SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION AT ANY TIME THAT HE HAD COMMITTED ANY TRANSGRESSION ON THIS SCORE. HSU SAID HE EARLY LEARNED FROM FRIENDS OF RULES WHICH HIS CONTACTS WERE OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW.

PRIOR TO FIRST MEETING WITH HSU, THEY NOTIFIED THEIR SUPERIORS OF PROPOSED INTERVIEW. SOME THEN RECEIVED SPECIFIC CLEARANCE FROM SUPERIORS TO SEE HSU; OTHERS WERE UNDER GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AFTER EACH SESSION WITH HSU TO REPORT. HSU STRESSED THAT HE HAD AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL SUBJECTS AND DID NOT PROBE ABOUT SUCH SENSITIVE THINGS AS IDEOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS ON WRITING. HIS FOCUS WAS ON LITERARY MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES SUCH AS HOW AUTHORS COMPOSED POETRY AND THEIR USE OF OTHER LITERARY FORMS. HE WAS NEVER CONSCIOUS OF ANY STRAINS ARISING FROM THESE INTERVIEWS AND SAID HE GOT ALONG ESPECIALLY WELL WITH WRITERS, SOME OF WHOM WERE FORMER TEACHERS AND SCHOOLMATES. NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHER AT ANY TIME HAD SENSE OF BEING FOLLOWED NOR OF BEING UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE. WORTH NOTING ALSO WAS FACT THAT PRC TRAVEL SERVICE HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE IN HELPING HSU LINE UP LITERARY INTERVIEWS AND THAT TRAVEL SERVICE ALSO ADVANCED HSU'S BROTHER TWO HUNDRED YUAN TO FACILITATE A MARCH REUNION OF THE BROTHERS IN WUHAN.

2. HSU POINTED OUT THAT DURING TSINAN SEARCH DENOUEMENT PRC PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICIALS MADE CAREFUL DISTINCTION BETWEEN WHAT THEY SAID TO HIM VERBALLY AND WHAT THEY FORMALLY WROTE DOWN. ALTHOUGH AUTHORITIES ORALLY CONFRONTED HSU WITH SUCH TERMS AS "ILLEGALLY GATHERING INFORMATION," "ESPIONAGE" AND "SABOTAGE," THEY DID NOT AT ANY TIME WRITE THEM DOWN. THE SEARCH WARRANT THAT AUTHORITIES SHOWED HSU AFTER TELLING HIM THEY HAD EVIDENCE OF HIS "ILLEGALLY GATHERING INFORMATION," STATED MERELY THAT TSINAN AUTHORITIES WERE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SEARCH OF HSU. HSU ALSO NOTED THAT NO FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST HSU WERE EVEN MADE EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITTEN FORM. AUTHORITIES CONSCIOUSLY AVOIDED USING SUCH WORDS AS "DETAIN," "ARREST" WITH HSU. WHEN NOTIFYING HSU THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE PRC, POLICE MERELY SAID "SOMEBODY WILL GO WITH YOU" RATHER THAN USING WORDS "ESCORT" OR "TAKE." HSU'S CLEAR IMPRESSION WAS THAT POLICE, WHILE WANTING HIM OUT OF PRC, ALSO WANTED TO AVOID CONVEYING ANY SENSE OF THIS BEING A FORMAL LEGAL ACTION. IN THIS REGARD HSU MENTIONED THAT DURING SAME APPROXIMATE TIMEFRAME, ANOTHER CHINESE-AMERICAN PROFESSOR, TIEN HSIN-YUAN OF COLUMBUS, OHIO HAD PROBLEM WITH POLICE OVER CONFIDENTIAL

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PICTURE-TAKING BUT RESULTS WERE DIFFERENT. TIEN TOLD HSU THAT DURING FLIGHT FROM PEKING TO MANCHURIA, TIEN HAD INADVERTENTLY TAKE A PICTURE WHILE ABOARD PLANE THAT INCLUDED PORTION OF AIRCRAFT. TIEN WAS LATER VISITED BY POLICE WHO CONFISCATED FILM BUT AFTER REMOVING OFFENDING SECTION, THEY HAD RETURN THE REST OF THE FILM. TIEN THEN WENT THROUGH WITH REST OF TRIP AS PLANNED. THIS SPECIFIC LIMITED ACTION TAKEN BY POLICE THUS CONTRASTED WITH TREATMENT GIVEN HSU. (EFFORTS BY CONGENOFFS TO CONTACT TIEN IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.)

3. AS TO PRC KNOWLEDGE OF HSU'S BIOGRAPHY OF CHOU, HSU SAID THAT BROTHER HAD SHOWN HIM CLIPPING FROM PRC CADRE NEWSHEET REFERENCE NEWS WITH SEPTEMBER 1972 DATELINE THAT HAD BEEN CIRCULATED

IN SZECHWAN. CLIPPING WAS STRAIGHT TRANSLATION OF JAPANESE DOMEI NEWS ITEM REPORTING THAT PREMIER TANAKA, IN PREPARING FOR SEPTEMBER 1972 VISIT TO PRC, WAS READING NUMBER OF BOOKS ABOUT CHINA, INCLUDING HSU'S BIOGRAPHY: "CHOU EN-LAI: CHINA'S GRAY EMINENCE." HSU ADDED THAT WHEN THE BOOK WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1967, HE HAD MAILED A COPY TO CHOU FROM JAPAN. MOREOVER IN JUNE 1972, WHEN CONTEMPLATING PRC VISIT, HSU HAD WRITTEN CHOU A LETTER IN WHICH, AFTER IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS CHOU'S BIOGRAPHER, HE ASKED FOR PREMIER'S HELP OBTAINING A PRC VISA. THEN UPON ENTERING PRC IN FEBRUARY 1973, HSU HAD SENT CHOU TWO FURTHER LETTERS, ONE FROM CANTON IN FEBRUARY AND ONE FROM PEKING IN MARCH. BOTH LETTERS REFERRED TO HSU'S LITERARY INTERESTS WITH PRC AUTHORS. HSU SAID NONE OF THESE LETTERS WERE EVER ANSWERED OR ACKNOWLEDGED AND WHEN HSU SPOKE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL LIU CHING-YU IN PEKING IN MARCH, HE HAD ASKED LIU WHETHER PREMIER HAD EVEN RECEIVED THE LETTERS. LIU MERELY REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

4. REGARDING THE DENUNCIATION BY TWO PRC OFFICIALS OF HSU'S BIOGRAPHY IN JULY, HSU SAID IT WAS ONE-SIDED AND THERE WAS NO REAL EXCHANGE OR DEBATE. THE OFFICIALS PROCEEDED AS THOUGH THEY HAD MEMORIZED THEIR MESSAGE AND WERE NEITHER PREPARED NOR INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING ANY PART WITH HSU. THEIR MAIN THRUST WAS THAT THE BOOK WAS A BAD WORK AND HSU WAS UNFIT TO WRITE ON SUCH SUBJECT, SINCE HE WAS CLEARLY BIASED. IN ADDITION TO POINTS HSU EARLIER HAD REPORTED (REFTELS), HE RECALLED THAT THE OFFICIALS CITED THE TITLE OF THE BOOK ITSELF AS SHOWING CLEARLY HSU'S PREJUDICE, FOR TITLE IMPLIED THAT CHOU WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN CHINA'S GREAT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADER. HSU WAS ABSOLUTELY GUILTY OF MANIPULATING MATERIALS TO PROVE A PREJUDICE AND HE WAS NOT QUALIFIED TO BE AN OBJECTIVE WRITER. HSU THOUGHT THE OBVIOUS INTENT OF THE OFFICIALS WAS TO DISCOURAGE HSU FROM WRITING ANYMORE ABOUT CHOU, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT SAY THIS DIRECTLY. ASKED IF HE HAD EVER INDICATED TO ANY PRC OFFICIAL THAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT WRITING MORE ABOUT CHOU, HSU SAID THAT HE HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY INDICATED SUCH INTENTION BUT NEITHER HAD HE RULED IT OUT. HE HAD CONSISTENTLY MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS A WRITER AND SINCE THEY KNEW HE HAD WRITTEN A BIOGRAPH ON CHOU THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT WRITE ABOUT CHOU WAS RATHER IMPLICIT. THUS THE ACTION OF THE TWO OFFICIALS SEEMED TO HSU TO BE AIMED AT HEADING OFF THIS POSSIBILITY. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HSU SAID NO ONE IN PRC, INCLUDING THESE TWO OFFICIALS, HAD EVER REFERRED TO HIS PROPOSED BOOK ON LITERATURE NOR SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE HIS PROCEEDING WITH IT.

5. COMMENT. THE ABOVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HSU MUCH NARROWS THE PROBABLY CAUSES OF HSU'S EJECTION FROM THE PRC. THAT SLOPPY PRC STAFF WORK IN FAILING INITIALLY TO IDENTIFY HSU AS BIOGRAPHER OF CHOU LED TO SUBSEQUENT PRC DISCOVERY AND EMBARRASSMENT AND THUS TO HSU'S EXPULSION CAN BE DISMISSED. SIMILARLY, THE LIKELIHOOD IS GREATLY DIMINISHED THAT HSU'S INTERVIEWS WITH

PRC LITERARY FIGURES WAS CAUSE FOR HIS BEING EXPELLED. IT NOW
SEEMS CLEARER THAN EVER THAT HSU'S VISIT TO THE PRC AND HIS
SUBSEQUENT EJECTION WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO INTERNAL POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PRC AND TO PREMIER CHOU'S ROLE IN THOSE
DEVELOPMENTS. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT PRECISE PRESSURES CHOU
MAY CURRENTLY BE UNDER, IT SEEMS SAFE TO CONCLUDE THAT IN A
POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF CONTROVERSY AND DIFFERENCES, NEITHER
CHOU NOR HIS SUPPORTERS WOULD WELCOME ASSOCIATION WITH A CHINESE-
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHER WHOSE LAUDATORY TREATMENT OF CHOU INVITES
ALL SORTS OF ATTACKS.
OSBORN

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